

D 9074

SECRET
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. D. 9074
Section 1, Special Branch
Date December 8, 40

REPORT

Subject Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith - British.

Made by D.S.I. Logan

Forwarded by D.I. Crawford

Reference attached letter dated 21.11.40, from Passport Office, British Consulate-General, Shanghai, requesting information concerning Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith nee Verjehovesky, British subject by marriage, enquiries disclosed that she was born in Poland of Jewish parents, on 13.2.1900, and married a British subject, Percy Arthur William Smith in the British Consulate-General, Shanghai on 25.3.24. She was issued British Passport No. 2256 on 4.12.24 and was registered as British subject on 6.3.25.

Percy A.W. Smith was employed by Weeks & Co., Ltd. (not Hall & Holtz as stated in Special Branch report dated 6.3.39) until 1929, when that firm went into liquidation. Mrs. Smith appears to have left Shanghai, shortly after her marriage, for Manila, where she was connected with a night club for some time, after which she is said to have gone to U.S.A. It is believed that she returned to Shanghai about 1930, since which time she has been connected with various houses of assignation and massage establishments. She has at various times been employed as a dance hostess in various low class cabarets and, in 1937, was manageress of the Hungarian Restaurant, 272 Yu Yuen Road but was discharged for excessive drinking. Later, she was manageress of Jack's Bar, Yu Yuen Road, in conjunction with which a Chinese

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 2 -

Subject

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

brothel was operated which was patronised chiefly by British troops.

At the present time she is connected with a massage establishment at the Paramount Building, 258 Yu Yuen Road and is a partner with Mrs. Alexandra Ivanovna Mihailova, Russian, in a house of assignation kept by the latter at Flat No.202, 138 Nanking Road, Tel. No.10076. She has not registered at the British Consulate since 3.3.25 and has not at any time reported the loss of her British passport to the Police.

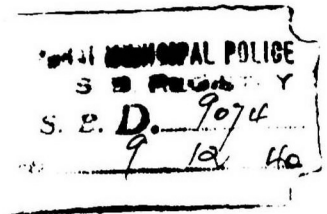
Information from one source is to the effect that her husband Percy A.W. Smith died in Shanghai sometime before 1929 but no reference to his death is contained in the vital statistics or cemeteries' records of either the S.L.C. or F.M.C.

Information from a former colleague is to the effect that Smith returned to England several years ago and has since died. This latter information appears the most probable though it has not been possible to obtain confirmation of it.

D. S. I.

D. S. I.

A.C. (Special Branch)



December

9

40.

Dear Mr. Cox,

Reference your letter of November 21, 1940, respecting Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith, I enclose a ^xcopy of a Police report respecting this "lady", her reputation as will be seen from the Police report shows her to be of a very bad moral character.

Yours faithfully,

** Enclosed.*

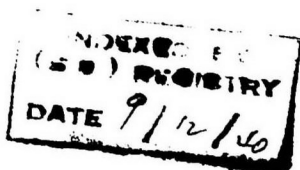
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Assistant Commissioner
(Special Branch)

A. T. Cox, Esq.,

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.



SECRET

December 8, 40.

Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith - British.

Reference attached letter dated 21.11.40, from Passport Office, British Consulate-General, Shanghai, requesting information concerning Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith nee Verjehovesky, British subject by marriage, enquiries disclosed that she was born in Poland of Jewish parents, on 13.2.1900, and married a British subject, Percy Arthur William Smith in the British Consulate-General, Shanghai on 25.3.24. She was issued British Passport No. 2256 on 4.12.24 and was registered as British subject on 6.3.25.

Percy A.W. Smith was employed by Weeks & Co., Ltd. (~~not Hall & Haults as stated in Special Branch report dated 6.3.39~~) until 1929, when that firm went into liquidation. Mrs. Smith appears to have left Shanghai, shortly after her marriage, for Manila, where she was connected with a night club for some time, after which she is said to have gone to U.S.A. It is believed that she returned to Shanghai about 1930 since which time she has been connected with various houses of assignation and massage establishments. She has at various times been employed as a dance hostess in various low class cabarets and, in 1937, was manageress of the Hungarian Restaurant, 272 Yu Yuen Road but was discharged for excessive drinking. Later, she was manageress of Jack's Bar, Yu Yuen Road, in conjunction with which a Chinese

brothel was operated which was patronised chiefly by British troops.

At the present time she is connected with a business establishment at the Paramount Building, 238 Yu Yuen Road and is a partner with Mrs. Alexandre Ivanovna Mihailova, Russian, in a house of assignation kept by the latter at Flat No. 202, 138 Nanking Road. Tel. No. 10076. She has not registered at the British Consulate since 6.3.25 and has not at any time reported the loss of her British passport to the Police.

Information from one source is to the effect that her husband Percy A. Smith died in Shanghai sometime before 1929 but no reference to his death is contained in the vital statistics or cemeteries records of either the P.M.C. or F.M.C.

Information from a former colleague is to the effect that Smith returned to England several years ago and has since died. This latter information appears the most probable though it has not been possible to obtain confirmation of it.

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL, POLICE
SHANGHAI
November 21st, 1940.
S. B. D. 9 12 40

Dear Mr. Bennett,

I have received a visit from Mrs. Olga Alekseevna Smith, a British subject by marriage, who states she lost her passport about four months ago when her bag was snatched from her in Jessfield Park.

She gives her address 238 Yu Yuen Road and states she has returned to Shanghai in February this year.

According to our records she was born in Poland on 13th February 1900 and married Percy Arthur Wm. Smith at this Consulate-General on the 25th March, 1924, being issued Passport No. 2256 by this Consulate-General on the 4th December, 1924. She then registered as a British subject on the 6th March, 1925, but has not registered since.

On my asking her why she had not registered for 15 years, she informed me that she had been away from China "travelling" and had returned only this year. If so, the passport issued by us must have been replaced by another one, presumably issued elsewhere, as the one issued by us should have expired in 1934.

In view of the lapse of 15 years since this Consulate-General had any dealings with Mrs. Olga Smith and because of my own personal misgivings about her bona fides, I feel we should investigate her movements and find out whether she is still married to Smith and entitled to British nationality. Apparently she was employed at one time at Jock's Bar, Yu Yuen Road, and, I understand, was probably employed there last year. I have an impression that she is also attached to the "Paramount" this year. She calls herself an artist and confessed to me that she was running a "massage" business as it was difficult to get money.

G. J. Bennett, Esquire,
Assistant Commissioner,
Special Branch,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
SHANGHAI.

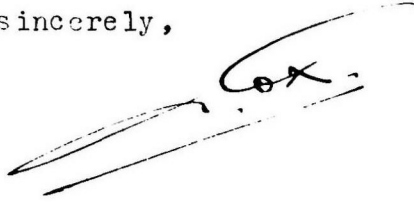
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2.

I enclose (for eventual return to me) a photograph of the lady. She supplied me with this photograph when making an application for a new passport. The guarantee on the application form was signed by a British resident, Robert A. Tayler (China General Omnibus Company) who stated in the form that he had known her for 14 years (and she says she has been travelling during her 15 years of non-registration here!).

Pending any information you may be able to give me, I am holding up the question of the issue of a new passport.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. A. Cox', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'G'.

Mrs. Olga Alexeevna SMITH, a Polish Jewess and a British subject by marriage is a professional ? prostitute and keeper of houses of assignation. She is a well-known person in "certain circles" of this city as ~~like~~ she was a keeper of the houses of assignation in this city for a considerable time.

Following her marriage to the late Mr. Smith in 1924 she left Shanghai first for Manila, where she was connected with a some night cabaret, and she then proceeded to U.S.A. She is believed to have come back to Shanghai about 10 years ago and was since connected with various houses of assignation and message establishments.

It is rumoured in "Certain circles" that ^{she/} had something to do with the death of the late Mr. Smith and it is said that she had ^{even/} poisoned him .

She is now connected with a message establishment at the Paramount Bldg., 238 Yu Yuen Road and she is also a partner of a house of assignation kept by her old friend Mrs. Alexandra Ivanovna MIHAILOVA, Russian at Flat No. 2.0.2 138 Nanking Road, Tel:- 10076.

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CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. B. REGISTRY

File No. *79*
No. S. B. D. *79*

CONFIDENTIAL

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

Date *March 6,* 19*39*

Subject *Enquiries regarding Mrs P.A.W. Smith*

Made by *D.S.I. Prokofiev.*

Forwarded by *C. Gaudin*

Enquiries show that Mrs P.A.W. Smith (Olga Alexeyevna Smith) nee Verjehovesky was born on 13-2-1900 in Poland. She is reported to have been residing in Shanghai for at least 15 years and became British subject by marriage. Her husband, Mr. P.A.W. Smith, who was employed with Hall & Holtz Ltd in Shanghai, is reported to have died in or about 1926.

On 4-12-24 she was issued by the local British Consulate-General passport No.2256. She has not been at the Consulate for registration since 6-3-25.

Mrs Smith is not known at the Russian Emigrants' Committee, 118/1 Moulmein Road.

While in Shanghai she did not come to the notice of the Municipal Police or of the French Police in connection with any activities of an undesirable nature.

In addition to the information contained in the attached report dated 17-2-39 it may be mentioned that the New Jock's Bar, 1475 Yu Yuen Road, is reported to be operated in conjunction with what appears to be a Chinese brothel. The fact that Mrs Smith accepted employment as a manageress in this establishment seems to be suggestive of her character generally.

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Please see
15 info
conveyed
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very early
11/11/39
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FILE
BA.D.C. (Sp. Br.)
73
O.Y. P. 15
as above

Li.
Information conveyed
verbally to X.A.P.H.
O.A. Perkins
14/3
D.C. (Special Branch)
14/3
A. Prokofiev
D. S. I.
DC Davis
Information
Thos Robertson
DC (SB)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Misc. File No. 86/39.

Bubbling Well Station,

REPORT

Date 17th February 1939.

Subject. Inquiries re Mrs. Smith.

Made by D.S.I. Goloobkoff

Forwarded by *R. Perkins C.I.*

Sir;

I beg to report that enquiries made re-above female show that she is Russian by birth, and British subject by marriage. Her former husband late Mr. P.A.W. Smith had been connected with the firm of Hall & Holtz in Shanghai. After his death Mrs. Smith ~~has~~ worked as a hostess in cabarets and in 1937 was employed as a manageress of the Hungarian Restaurant, 272 Yu Yuen Road, when the same was Chinese owned. When the above restaurant was taken over by the present owner, Mrs. Smith was discharged on account of excessive drinking. She then again went to work as a hostess in a cabaret in Rue Chu Pao San, but later accepted employment as a manageress of the Jock's Bar, Yu Yuen Road.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D.C. G.P.W.
Comm. H. L. H.

Goloobkoff
D. S. I.



Sen. Div. 1/c.

D.D.O. "B" Div.

D.L. (Divisions)

D. A. P. H. requested D. G. B. W. to furnish a written report - reasons - to decide if the bar shall remain in for be put out of bounds, to British soldiers. I suggest the information be conveyed verbally - Mrs. Smith is a British subject. R. Perkins D.O. 17

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Misc. File No. 86/39.

Subbling Hall Station,

REPORT

Date 17th February 1939.

Subject Enquiries re Mrs. Smith.

Made by D.S.I. Golobkoff

Forwarded by *D. S. I. Perkins C. I.*

Sir;

I beg to report that enquiries made re-above female show that she is Russian by birth, and British subject by marriage. Her former husband late Mr. P.A. Smith had been connected with the firm of Hall & Holtz in Shanghai. After his death Mrs. Smith has worked as a hostess in cabarets and in 1937 was employed as a manageress of the Hungarian Restaurant, 272 Yu Yuen Road, when the same was Chinese owned. When the above restaurant was taken over by the present owner, Mrs. Smith was discharged on account of excessive drinking. She then again went to work as a hostess in a cabaret in Rue Chu Pao San, but later accepted employment as a manageress of the Jock's Bar, Yu Yuen Road.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. I.

D. S. I.

Sen. Det. 1/0.

D.D.O. "B" Div.